



**MEMORANDUM**

November 10, 2004

File No. 04-111001

TO: All interested parties

FROM: Rochelle Goss, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS) AND  
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF SEIS**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

**The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to review and update the 1985 Department of Natural Resources Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The DNR is mandated to maintain a viable oil and gas leasing program for state lands (RCW 78.52.001, RCW 78.52.040 and WAC 332-12-150). The Oil and Gas Leasing Program covers preliminary exploratory and investigative actions and lease auctioning for state lands for possible development and production, while conserving and enhancing natural resources.**

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement:

1. The Oil and Gas Leasing Program must be updated to include the 1988 Washington Administrative Code 332-12-150 authorization for the DNR to lease state lands for other state agencies.
2. The Oil and Gas Leasing Program needs to be reevaluated in terms of current knowledge and laws governing wildlife and wildlife habitat protection.
3. Alignment of the 1985 Oil and Gas Leasing Program with broad Department of Natural Resources landscape and ecosystem assessments and plans since 1985, such as the 1992 Forest Resource Plan, Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, the 1997 Department of Natural Resources Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and the 1994 House Bill 1309, Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Lands.
4. The relationship between the DNR as auctioneer, and the other state agencies leasing state lands for oil and gas exploration, needs to be updated. This includes each agency's State Environmental Policy Act or administrative duties or responsibilities, including any Memorandums of Agreement or Memorandums of Understanding.
5. Oil and Gas Leasing Program policies and current laws and rules (current forest practices rules, new Endangered Species Act listings, 1994 Oil and Gas Conservation Act (RCW 78.52) revision assigning the Oil and Gas Conservation Committee duties to the Department of Natural Resources).

Information about this proposal can be viewed on DNR's website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington, on November 10, 2004. We will consider comments on this proposed DS received by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2004. **Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center, at P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. You may also email your comments to: [sepacenter@wadnr.gov](mailto:sepacenter@wadnr.gov). Please include the file number listed above on all comments.**